

FEB 09 2021

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ALLOW FAITH PODS  
BASED ON KAPU ALOHA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN EACH  
CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians are severely overrepresented in  
2 the State's prison population and have a much higher recidivism  
3 rate than non-Hawaiians; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua is defined as "a place of refuge,  
6 sanctuary, asylum, place of peace and safety" and is based on  
7 Hawaiian cultural practices that can help the native Hawaiian  
8 community and the community at-large; and  
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10 WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua is a decentralized wellness center that  
11 can act as an alternative to building more prisons in the State  
12 and is based on healing inhabitants and eventually returning  
13 them back to the community; and  
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15 WHEREAS, there is a resurgence of Hawaiian cultural  
16 practices and an increased focus on the importance of  
17 maintaining Hawaiian cultural practices; and  
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19 WHEREAS, non-violence has always been key to Hawaiians, as  
20 represented in the Hawaiian cultural practice of kapu aloha; and  
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22 WHEREAS, incarcerated individuals, or pa'ahao, have  
23 initiated Hawaiian cultural programs within different  
24 correctional systems known as "faith pods" throughout the nation  
25 to help promote safe spaces to heal and regain their identity as  
26 Hawaiians; and  
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28 WHEREAS, Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, sought to  
29 "[r]educe recidivism, prevent crime, and ensure long-term  
30 positive change by developing a plan to create a wellness center  
31 that reestablishes highly recognized native Hawaiian cultural



1 practices to restore the overall well-being of persons,  
2 families, and the native Hawaiian community"; and  
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4 WHEREAS, there have been many attempts to improve the  
5 correctional system in the State but none has provided Hawaiians  
6 with the opportunity to practice native Hawaiian cultural  
7 practices; now, therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
12 Public Safety is requested to allow "faith pods" based upon kapu  
13 aloha to be established within each correctional center in the  
14 State to allow incarcerated individuals a choice to reestablish  
15 recognized native Hawaiian cultural practices to restore the  
16 overall well-being of the Hawaiian community; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public  
20 Safety and Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs board  
21 of trustees.  
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OFFERED BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

